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The Highlander

Thursday **February 13 2025** | Issue 676

INSIDE: DORSET SNOWBALL THIS WEEKEND PAGE 25 **FREE**

All in for $20K

James Richardson gives a thumbs up during Haliburton Forest's 33rd annual charity poker run Feb. 8. He and other riders helped raise $20,000 for the Dysart fire department. See more on page 16.
Photo by Justin Belanger.

Land Trust responds to corridor claims

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) has responded to concerns about its Highlands Corridor initiative.

Late last week, some residents began writing letters to municipal, provincial and federal politicians - asking them to put a stop to the HHLT's request for a conservation reserve.

The corridor is 100,000 hectares of Crown, municipal and private land from north of Norland in the west to Paudash Lake in the east; and south of Haliburton to Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park.

Wilberforce's John Davidson said he was concerned the designation means people will no longer be able to hunt, fish, trap, use motorized vehicles, ride horses, camp, cycle, have unrestrained pets, fires, or use drones. He claimed the designation would also ban logging, mining and quarrying.

The Land Trust, on Feb. 10, responded to what it called "mistaken information" in the community.

The organization said the corridor is made up of private property, Crown land, and three provincial parks; Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands; Kawartha Highlands, and Silent Lake. However, it said only specific areas of Crown land would be designated 'conservation reserve.'

It added that "within these potential conservation reserves, hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, ATV and dirt bike use on existing trails, horseback riding and cycling, pet walking, campfires etc. would continue

Continued **'County'** on page 2

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County council seeking more information

Continued from page 1

to be permitted activities. Only logging, the development of new quarries, and mining would be prohibited in those sections."

As for existing logging and quarry operations, they would be allowed to continue, the HHLT said.

The Land Trust added private property would not be impacted unless landowners wanted to voluntarily work with the HHLT.

It went on to elaborate on specifics in an open letter.

"Our ability to get out in nature – be it on foot, on skis, or ATV or dirt bike, to hunt or to fish is precisely what HHLT seeks to promote and protect through the establishment of conservation reserve spaces throughout the corridor. By designating these spaces as conservation reserves, we are safeguarding the health of these pristine forests and wetlands and ensuring the public's enjoyment of them for generations to come."

Paul Heaven, of Glenside Ecological Services Limited, has been working with the Land Trust on the initiative. *File.*

Conservation Reserve

Dennis Simmons, of Dennis C. Simmons Development and Land Management Consulting Services, in Irondale, is opposed to the corridor, with "even stronger" opposition to the Milburn Kendrick protected area. He said he owns land in the mapped area and his father, and grandfather, logged a large portion of the land and milled lumber.

"All of the land located within the proposed Haliburton Highlands Corridor, including the proposed Milburn Kendrick protected area, is not unique to the province of Ontario," he argued. "I request the province leave well enough alone and cease this venture of the Haliburton Highlands Corridor and inclusive protected areas on Crown land."

Simmons further told *The Highlander* the Ministry of Natural Resources should oversee Crown land, not the HHLT.

Les Selby has also written the province. "I feel they are overstepping their role in a negative way for future resource uses. Aggregates are required to build or resurface provincial and local roads, road sand and salt to protect us on winter roads, materials for developing housing, schools and hospitals, sand to cover municipal landfill sites during operations, etc."

He added pits and quarries are a temporary land use, and are rehabilitated, with the MECP approving site plans.

Paul Heaven, of Glenside Ecological Services Limited, has been working with the Land Trust on the initiative. He, and the Land Trust's Shelley Hunt, appeared before County Council Feb. 12 to further talk about their plans.

Addressing council questions, they clarified the only real change would see designation of 15 per cent of Crown land in the Milburn Kendrick protected area. Heaven added the Bancroft Minden Forest Company, which holds the licence, has agreed with the Land Trust that the ecological value of the land outweighs the forestry value.

The two added the Trust is working with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and more recently, the Ontario Trails Protection Alliance.

Speaking specifically to the Milburn Kendrick, Heaven said it is "rich in ecological value, and provides excellent recreational resources." He added it boasts 24 per cent wetlands, which tackle climate change via flood mitigation, and capturing and storing carbon.

He said it supports five provincially-significant wetland complexes, including the Milburn, Bark Creek, Kendrick Creek, Lochlin, and South Milburn wetland complexes, and that the Lochlin Bog is significant.

Heaven added it supports a mix of habitats, including forests, wetlands, rocky barrens and 55 rare and/or at-risk species.

"It is for these exceptional ecological values that the HHLT is proposing the area be designated as a conservation reserve: a designation that permanently protects ecosystems, biodiversity and provincially-significant elements while providing recreational opportunities."

Following Wednesday's meeting, County council intends to seek more information, including from the related provincial ministries, and discuss the issue further at its March 26 meeting.

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Dysart ups pay with eye on election

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey saw a motion to increase council pay effective Jan. 1, approved recently. *File.*

Dysart et al councillors are getting a hefty pay rise in 2025, though mayor Murray Fearrey noted the extra money is being allocated to attract more people to run for office in next year's municipal election, rather than compensating incumbents.

At a Jan. 28 meeting, council approved upping the mayor's annual salary to $40,000 back dated to Jan. 1, an approximate 24.15 per cent increase from the $32,219 Fearrey earned in 2024.

The deputy mayor position, currently held by Walt McKechnie, will now pay $30,000 a year, up 16.39 per cent from the $25,775 earned last year; while councillors Pat Casey, Nancy Wood-Roberts, Tammy Donaldson, Carm Sawyer and Barry Boice will each get $25,000, a 10.85 per cent hike from $22,552.

Fearrey was set to earn $32,798 this year, with McKechnie originally getting $26,239 and councillors receiving $22,958.

Dysart's mayor has long preached for increased pay, noting the hours required of some council members to effectively fulfill their role is similar to that of a full-time job.

"I don't think anyone here is desperate for money, that's not the issue. We've got to get some interest for next year," Fearrey said. "The last thing we want is for there to be more acclamations… right now, at the current pay, it's hard to attract qualified people. We're lucky here that we've got four people involved in business. We've not always been that lucky."

Casey, Sawyer, Boice and Donaldson all run their own businesses, while Wood-Roberts is a nurse at Haliburton Highlands Health Services. Fearrey and McKechnie are both retired.

More than half of the sitting members were acclaimed during the 2022 election, with Fearrey and McKechnie unopposed for the leadership positions and Donaldson, in ward three, and Boice, in ward five, given a free ride.

It was a similar story at County council, Fearrey noted, with Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter and deputy Lisa Schell also acclaimed. Only Highlands East mayor and current County warden Dave Burton and Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen, the deputy warden, were elected.

Highlands East deputy mayor Cec Ryall and Algonquin Highlands deputy Jennifer Dailloux were each acclaimed as the ward three councillors in their respective communities.

"The average age at the County level is over 70. That's not very healthy," Fearrey said, noting he's also calling on the upper tier to adjust its pay structure for sitting representatives. It did so Feb. 12.

Dysart clerk Mallory Bishop said, "some councils in Ontario are raising their remuneration in preparation for the election. It is something that's being discussed in other areas… an attempt to attract candidates to run."

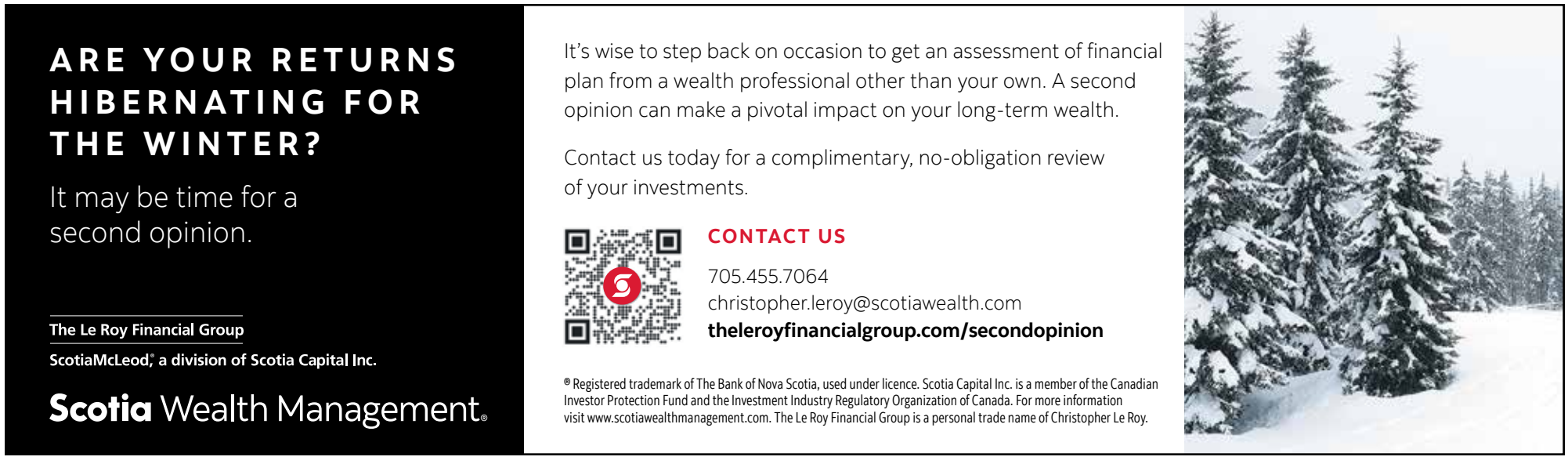
Dysart CAO Tamara Wilbee provided a list of comparative municipalities based on population size, seasonal influx, employment markets and scope of services, noting the numbers council approved – suggested by Fearrey – were "not far off" what other communities are paying.

Pay structures in Minden Hills last year were $33,224 (mayor), $27,635 (deputy), and $22,715 (councillor); Algonquin Highlands paid out $36,723, $29,379, and $24,645; while Highlands East paid $32,500, $26,150, and $22,025.

Mayors in Selwyn ($45,216 in 2024), Muskoka Lakes ($46,410 in 2022), Parry Sound ($46,190 in 2024), Seguin ($46,375 in 2025), Lake of Bays ($48,631 in 2022), and Georgian Bay ($57,750 in 2022) all earned more than Fearrey will bring in under the approved rates, Wilbee noted.

New deputy mayor and councillor pays are consistent with what those communities offer, Wilbee added.

Council also opted to bring annual pay increases in line with what non-unionized staff at the township receive, rather than basing it on inflation determined by the consumer price index (CPI). Wilbee said while there's no official rate, workers usually receive the same as their CUPE-contracted counterparts. Staff will get a four per cent hike this year and 3.5 per cent in 2026 and 2027.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'Shot in arm' for public health needs

By Mike Baker

After being unveiled as the new face of the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough health unit (HKNP) last week, Dr. Thomas Piggott said his main priorities are improving program capacity and ensuring the organization can effectively respond to any future health emergency.

The new acting medical officer of health for the region addressed media Feb. 10, reiterating the merger between Peterborough Public Health, which he oversaw, and the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit was brought on due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm really hoping, through this merger, we can address the shortfalls and have better readiness and capacity to respond to future threats," Piggott said. "We know a larger organization, with more back-up, cross-coverage and depth of staff and experience is going to strengthen our ability to serve our communities."

> *"This merger is an opportunity to reset.* ***Dr. Thomas Piggot, HKNP lead***

He said through the first few weeks of the merger, which became official Jan. 1, the unit has found "several hundreds of thousands of dollars" in efficiencies, allowing for that money to be allocated elsewhere.

Piggott identified things like student vaccinations and restaurant inspections as two areas where public health has "struggled to catch up" after programs were paused during the pandemic.

While general costs for office space, utilities, equipment and materials have spiked due to inflation in recent years, and staff salaries also increasing, Piggott said the money received from the Ministry of Health has rarely kept up.

"Public health has been getting sub-inflationary increases for the past two decades… that ultimately means we're forced into providing less services year in, year out," he said. "This merger is an opportunity to reset that, put us back on track, and find even more efficiencies so we can continue to maintain, grow and build service delivery."

He expects that process to happen gradually over several years – noting the only changes people may see in the short-term are on the health unit's new branding. He said an official name will be unveiled in the spring.

While Piggott has gained his experience all over the world – working with Doctors Without Borders in the Democratic Republic of Congo, serving as medical officer of health and VP lead for rural and remote health in northern Labrador, and serving as a physician in cities like Hamilton, he has roots in the Highlands region.

Growing up in nearby Oakwood, Piggott has a cottage outside Minden where his family spend their weekends over the summer. He said Haliburton County is one of his favourite places.

"We deeply appreciate this geography, just spending time in nature – biking, hiking, canoeing, camping, skiing, just taking advantage of what we have in this beautiful region… the trails in Haliburton [for] hiking. The whole area is really wonderful," he said.

Unit hopes to retain Dr. Bocking

Ron Black, HKNP board chair, said the unit is preparing an application to secure a second public health physician position – which he hopes will be enough to retain Dr. Natalie Bocking, formerly medical officer of health (MOH) with HKPR. She was named deputy MOH with HKNP.

"Typically, health units above 250,000 people have a second physician – our population is somewhere over 300,000 so we certainly recognize having another person with that expertise within the organization would be very, very important to us," Black said.

Piggott said he and Bocking have a good working relationship and that collaborating through the transition would be important. "That legacy knowledge and understanding of the [HKPR communities] is critical," Piggott said.

Highlands East deputy mayor Cec Ryall, who serves as HKNP vice chair, said one of the early focuses of the merger has been ensuring smaller populated communities, like Haliburton County, are properly serviced. He said the unit's satellite offices in Lindsay, Port Hope and Haliburton will remain open for the foreseeable future.

Six weeks into the merger, Ryall is convinced it will be a benefit to all residents of the region. He noted public health is responsible for things like tracking disease outbreaks, immunizations, assisting with mental and sexual health, and more.

"We're learning already that PPH has been able to successfully handle things in a better way than HKPR, and vice versa… as we continue to move forward, things will evolve.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

February 13 – Regular Council Meeting

February 27 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

TOWNSHIP SEEKING MEMBERS FOR THE PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking resident members to serve on the Property Standards Committee for the 2024-2026 term. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and cover letter to admin@mindenhills.ca by February 21, 2025. For more information regarding the Property Standards Committee visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

FAMILY DAY ACTIVITIES – SG NESBITT MEMORIAL ARENA

Drop-in activities on February 17th! Included is a FREE sponsored Public Skate courtesy of the Minden & District Lions Club. For other scheduled activities and associated fees, please visit our website.

FAMILY DAY CLOSURES

The Township Administration Offices will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025 to celebrate Family Day.
The following facilities are open as follows:

SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena 8am-9pm

Minden Hills Cultural Centre 12pm-2pm

All waste disposal sites will be open and will operate on Sunday hours

Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

SNOW REMOVAL

Section 181 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing so to do from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181.

NOTICE: ADOPTION OF 2025 WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE BUDGET AND BY-LAWS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will consider adopting By-Laws for the 2025 Budget, 2025 Tax Rates, and Water & Wastewater Rates on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM during its Regular Council Meeting located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

Agnes Jamieson Gallery: The 2nd Annual Archie Stouffer Student Art Exhibit – The Land Between, from February 13 to March 15. The Artist Reception will take place on February 22 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Documentary: Mighty Jerome (2010) on February 13 at 1:00 pm. Chronicling the life and career of Harry Jerome, Canada's record-setting track and field athlete. Documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board (NFB).

Family Day Open House: Join the MHCC Foundation on February 17 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Activities at Nature's Place, Apple Tree Identification Project (ATIP) exhibit, and a wolf centre exhibit by the Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve Ltd. Food and refreshments will be provided by the Minden Rotary Club.

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TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

MH taxpayers looking at five per cent hike

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills residential ratepayers are looking at just over a five per cent overall levy increase this year, with council expected to formally pass the 2025 budget at a Feb. 13 council meeting.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey was prepared to continue meeting Feb. 4 to try to find more revenue for the township, and to bring the levy down, but her colleagues wanted to finalize the document so staff could get on with the business of running the corporation.

McKelvey asked fellow councillors if they were content with the outcome.

Mayor Bob Carter played the numbers game, saying it equated to about a three per cent levy jump for municipal services, with the township having to come up with a 0.84 per cent increase for OPP, and putting 1.25 per cent towards infrastructure investment.

"Not many businesses are able to go year-to-year at 3.1 per cent," Carter said. "Staff has done an outstanding job of keeping these costs down. I am not willing to sacrifice our future to have a short-term savings now. Am I happy? No, I'm not happy, but I think the 3.1 per cent is a reasonable number that people have to accept to keep this municipality strong."

Per $100,000 of residential assessment, the impact is $22.99-a-year, or six cents a day, for taxpayers. Capital investments amount to $6,833,887 in 2025.

The mayor said that going into budget talks last November, he was worried the increase would be double digits, so this was, "as good as we are going to be able to do at this point. It is a budget, not an exact science." He wanted to move on and get 2025 projects started.

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said she was not content with the final number either, but said it reflected the reality of "what is required from staff to get moving on the 2025 operations of the corporation. Do I like the number? No, but I think it could have been a lot higher. We will get quarterly reports from finance, but I'd like to see tenders go out, and competitive bidding begin."

McKelvey reiterated she'd like to look at some revenue areas to bring the tax levy down, and said it was, "not responsible to try to not bring these taxes down when we can look at things." An example she used was bank interest.

But Coun. Pam Sayne said she did not think they would find savings to warrant spending more staff time sitting in special council meetings for the budget. She noted with provincial and federal elections looming, municipalities had to keep lobbying upper tier governments for a bigger share of the funding pie.

"I don't like 5.2 per cent either, I'd prefer inflation, but that is not happening with downloads." She said they needed to educate the public about why municipal tax rates are rising.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher said, "things will change and we'll modify things throughout the year. True costs will only be known once we've tendered out our projects, or sought quotes for any of the services we need. There may be unforeseen things that come throughout the year, and at every turn we will come back to have discussion with council. We may be able to bring more work forward. We may have to defer some things. We may have to reallocate some things."

She added their goal was to "keep the tax rate at a reasonable level, while maintaining current service levels where possible, and we feel we have presented you with a fair proposal today."

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said the budget reflected reality. *File.*

Some key decisions:

- Council decided not to proceed with pound services from Paws at Killara Station.
- $50,000 to release an expression of interest seeking a partner or partners for the re-development of the Lochlin Community Centre property.
- Hiring two additional summer students to support the new in-house lawncare maintenance program.
- New vehicles: $65,000 for a pick-up truck for environmental services from the roads reserve; $65,000 for one for community services from the parks reserve; $440,112 for a replacement excavator and float trailer for public works from the roads reserve.
- Roads: Davis Lake Road will receive surface treatment at a cost of $907,952, mostly from taxation, but some grant money. Another $183,817 for surface treatment of roads. Again, there is some grant money. Some $346,509 to convert some roads to gravel (Miners Bay and a portion of Buller Road), using tax money, reserves and grants. Another $170,881 for slurry seal of parts of Scotch Line Road and Wigamog Road.
- An initial spend of $257,500 to replace the Minden Curling Club roof, plus insulation. They have a grant application pending. And, an additional $40,000 for a new roof system for the cultural centre and library.
- $303,331 from reserves to put towards accessibility upgrades at buildings. They did get a $1,137,350 grant.
- Money for security cameras at the cultural centre and library to combat vandalism. $22,000 from reserves.
- $5,000 for a structure assessment of the Bailey Barn.
- A two per cent water rate increase and three per cent wastewater increase.

KLHHC gets $2.4M for affordable housing project in Minden

Minden Hills is getting $2.4 million in provincial funding to put towards a housing development on Hwy. 35, just south of the legion.

Mayor Bob Carter, during his mayor's report to the Jan. 30 council meeting, said that on Jan. 27, the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation (KLHHC) learned it had received $3.2 million in total for two housing projects.

Carter said one is in Kawartha Lakes, but the other $2.4 million is for the Minden project.

He said the money was "very, very welcome. The housing corporation is in the process of getting new bids for that building, so there'll be more news coming forward."

The province has yet to issue a media release. The corporation has not issued a release pending the province doing so.

"That $2.4 million has me very excited that we will actually be breaking ground on this project this year," Carter said. *(Lisa Gervais)*

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

JDH, HHSS in new attendance pilot

By Mike Baker

With concerns over decreased student attendance, Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has launched a new pilot program at five schools in the region – including two in Haliburton County – designed to spark engagement in the classroom.

Speaking at a recent board meeting in Bracebridge, Wes Hahn, TLDSB director of education, said the program is designed for students with persistent absences. Staff works to assess reasons for absenteeism and implements individual site-specific solutions.

It was launched in September at J.D. Hodgson elementary, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Parkview Public School in Lindsay, Riverside Public School in Huntsville, and Grandview Public School in Bethany.

Associate superintendent Tanya Fraser noted the schools were chosen at random and aren't necessarily those with the lowest student attendance. The board did not provide attendance figures for the participating schools.

"We are learning lots about the barriers students have in attending school regularly," she said

The program will run for the remainder of the school year. Each school has established "attendance champion teams" that Fraser says meets regularly with students and parents to set goals.

"It's a separate meeting, not with their usual [teachers] and very personalized to each student," Fraser said. "There's been a shift from a punitive approach to absenteeism to a more supportive and understanding model… instead of saying 'you must come every day, all day' we're talking to students and asking them what they think they can do. There's some give and take."

Hahn said he feels the program is about changing the culture for students who have issues with attendance. The board has brought in re-engagement and mental health counsellors to assist.

He noted students who are absent one day every two weeks end up missing a month's instruction over the school year. There are students enrolled in the program missing multiple days per week.

The Ministry of Education has issued attendance benchmarks to boards this year, challenging schools to ensure students have an overall attendance of 90 per cent or more. Hahn said across TLDSB, 68 per cent of elementary-aged students are hitting that target, though only 46 per cent are for secondary. He noted inclement weather days, where school buses don't run, are not included in those totals.

TLDSB's Wes Hahn said improving student attendance is a major focus for the board.

"We do not penalize students who cannot get to school on those days. Teachers don't run regular lessons or anything like that," Hahn said.

TLDSB communications lead, Carolynne Bull, said the board is "monitoring a more manageable threshold" for school attendance, at 80 per cent. In Haliburton County, 83 per cent of elementary and 84 per cent of secondary students are hitting that target.

Hahn said the board has been focusing on improving attendance for some time, hosting a series of student and parent forums last spring. Regular barriers include food insecurity, mental health issues, addictions, bullying, and feelings of anxiety and depression.

All secondary schools have started to track attendance period-by-period, with messages sent home for any absence.

"We know what the issues are and have started to address them," Hahn said. "Interventions such as referrals to re-engagement or mental health counsellors puts parents and students in direct contact with support so they can receive help and, hopefully, remove those barriers for getting to school.

"Offering alternative academic programs is another avenue we're pursuing. That way students don't feel the burden of the weight of the world if they've been out of school for a long time. It's about getting them back connected to school, completing assignments, and getting credits so they don't feel so far behind," he added.

Evolving instruction

Hahn said there's been lots of talk about incorporating AI learning into the TLDSB curriculum.

"I know there's been a lot of negatives on the impacts, particularly around plagiarism, but there are a lot of benefits to this," he said. "We know the global economy and the world in general is moving forward with this kind of technology. We want to make sure our students and staff are moving along that same path."

He said a few schools have already started with some introductory instruction.

Wanting to balance screen time with other methods, Hahn said the board is also moving ahead with a review of outdoor education. While schools have routinely organized trips to Camp Muskoka, Hahn said the board is looking at providing regular opportunities in other regions, such as Haliburton County and Kawartha Lakes.

ELECTION NEWS

Nine in the race for HKLB provincial vote

There will be a full run of candidates on the ballot in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock for the Feb. 27 provincial election, with eight parties represented.

New this week are Alison Bennie for the Liberals, Jacquie Barker for the New Blue Party, Bill Denby for the Freedom Party of Ontario, and Brian Kerr for the Ontario Party.

They join incumbent Laurie Scott, seeking her seventh term for the Progressive Conservatives; Barbara Doyle of the Ontario NDP, Tom Regina of the Green Party of Ontario, Libertarian Zachary Tisdale, and independent Gene Balfour.

The cut-off to register is today, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m.

A County-based candidates debate has been scheduled Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Minden Community Centre. Organized by Patrick Porzuczek of the 'Re-open the Minden ER' group, it will see candidates answer a series of pre-submitted questions. Send questions in advance to save.minden.er@gmail.com.

Porzuczek said invites have been extended to four recognized official parties, with Doyle, Regina and Bennie confirming their attendance. *(Mike Baker).*

Michael Hurley, president of OCHU-CUPE, speaks outside of the HHHS' Minden site. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Stretcher tour rolls into Minden

By Lisa Gervais

With just 15 days until the provincial election, CUPE's Ontario Council of Hospital Unions brought two stretchers to Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Minden site Feb. 11 to symbolize "the crisis in Ontario's health care."

The same union that brought The Trojan Horse to the Highlands in December said their symbolic tour to 30 communities in Ontario represented: 1,860 people on stretchers in hospital hallways, up from 826 in June 2018 when Premier Doug Ford promised to end hallway medicine; 2.5 million people without a family doctor; palliative home care patients dying without painkillers and medical supplies; 250,000 people waiting for surgeries; nearly 50,000 people waiting for long-term care and "constant ER closures in small towns."

President of OCHU-CUPE, Michael Hurley said, "the crisis in health care affects almost every family. The entire health care sector is staggering. There is no end to the staffing shortages; ER closures, waits for surgeries or for long-term care beds or for a family doctor, or for appropriate home care services. We hope to help ensure that this election focuses on solutions to this crisis."

Hurley claimed that in 2023, HHHS operated at 98.1 per cent capacity, well above the 85 per cent recommended maximum bed occupancy level. According to analysis by OCHU-CUPE, HHHS must add at least 17 beds to achieve safe occupancy levels.

Lauren Ernst, communications for HHHS, responded that based on early response from Ontario Health "for 2029/2030, we should plan for 38 beds based on the activity/bed capacity of hospitals with similar number of emergency visits and adjusted for 90 per cent occupancy rate.

"This compares to our initial plan of 24 beds, which used 2022 Ministry of Finance population data. We look forward to advancing to the next stage of master planning where we will use updated data and get into more details. However, in the near term, our initial plans include increasing to about 30 beds from 15 beds."

(Lisa Gervais)

COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

New Kinmount doctor to take 375 County patients

Physician recruitment coordinator, Wendy Welch, told County council Jan. 26 that Dr. Mimi Van Der Leden started at the Kinmount and District Health Centre Feb. 3, seeing a minimum of 375 patients from Haliburton County.

She added that Dr. Benjamin Chen, a consultant general internist, is starting in February, practicing one Friday a month at the new internal medicine clinic at Haliburton Highlands Health Services' Minden site. She added he will provide consultations for in-patients at HHHS one Saturday a month.

"Excellent support for our family physicians, especially for managing care for challenging patients with comorbidities (illness or disease)," Welch said.

She added she had a number of other physician candidate leads: including a family doctor from the UK who still must be government-approved; a doctor from southeastern Ontario who visited in January; another from the UK visiting in February, and one with ties to Haliburton County considering emergency, hospital and clinic work.

Her department will remain with the Eastern ON Physician Recruitment Alliance (EOPRA). Sixteen communities are part of EOPRA.

"Plans for 2025 are to attend several international recruiting opportunities/ conferences in the U.S., UK and perhaps Australia," Welch said.

And the survey said

Tourism manager Angelica Ingram said results from 2024 stakeholder surveys saw, "fairly positive results," with 28 per cent of businesses reporting "slightly better" revenue than in 2023.

"Businesses are remaining cautiously optimistic about what overall revenues and visits will look like in 2025," she said.

As for total visitations in 2024, compared to 2023, she said five per cent reported significantly better; 35 per cent slightly better; 28 per cent about the same, 21 per cent worse and 12 per cent significantly worse.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux asked Ingram to drill down on the "broad spread" results. Ingram said they were from OHTO (Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization) and she would get more information.

She told council, "the department has been addressing some of the key areas of concern for tourism businesses, including labour shortages and marketing and promotion partnerships. Looking ahead to 2025, these results will help guide some of our decisions around collaborations and product development," Ingram said.

(County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

What's Happening in your county...

Feb. 13 We Live in Time Movie Screening - Hosted at Northern Lights Art Pavilion

Feb. 14-15 Dorset snowball event - hosted in the village of Dorset.

Friday February 14

- Trina West - Sweethearts Dinner - hosted at the Dominion Hotel
- Arab Women Say What - Documentary Screening - hosted at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre
- Gord Kidd - Valentine's Day Dinner Food and Live Entertainment - hosted at Sandy Lane Resort
- High Tea - Valentine's Day Food - hosted at Ommmh
- Heart & Soul Live Entertainment - hosted at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride
- Thom Lambert Live Entertainment - hosted at Hook, Line & Sinker
- Loving 25 years event - hosted by Highlands Summer Festival at the Haliburton Legion

Feb. 15 The Night Howlers live entertainment - hosted at Boshkung Smokehouse.

Feb. 22 Bill Black - Ski-Apres live entertainment - hosted at Sir Sam's Ski

Feb. 28 Winter Folk Camp - learn & experience - hosted by Haliburton County Folk Society

To see the full listings of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening

TheHighlander
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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

OUR STAFF

PUBLISHER & LAYOUT
Heather Kennedy
heather@thehighlander.ca

EDITORIAL
Lisa Gervais, Editor
editor@thehighlander.ca

Mike Baker, Asst. Editor
mike@thehighlander.ca

SALES
Dawn Poissant
dawn@thehighlander.ca

Laurie Johnson
laurie@thehighlander.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER
Glenda Mumford
admin@thehighlander.ca

AD DESIGN
David Partridge, Designer
production@thehighlander.ca

PHOTOGRAPHER
Justin Belanger

DISTRIBUTION
Walt Griffin

CONTACT

705-457-2900
123 Maple Avenue, Box 1024
Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0

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Communication key for corridor

By Lisa Gervais

The Highlander has written about the Highlands Corridor for a few years now, but some residents have only recently learned of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) initiative.

For those who still don't know what it is – the corridor is a 100,000-hectare parcel of land in the south of the County that connects Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park, to Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park, and Silent Lake Provincial Park.

The Land Trust – and its consulting biologist, Paul Heaven - say climate change will stress wildlife, through disease, insect infestations, droughts and flooding, and species will only survive if they can move throughout the landscape – hence the need to protect the corridor.

Heaven has also repeatedly touted that the natural environment in the corridor provides critical services required for building climate change resilience. For example, he said wetlands help with flooding, and there is high carbon storage due to fens and bogs. Heaven says 71 per cent of the corridor is forested, with 75 per cent being mature forest, including the largest stand of old growth Hemlock in Ontario.

The corridor is home to 39 federal and provincial species-at-risk, 25 provincially-significant species, and 42 regionally or locally significant species.

Some residents think that the Land Trust is seeking to make the entire swathe of land a conservation reserve – and therefore ban hunting, fishing, trapping, and all recreational use.

Not true.

The HHLT is seeking the designation for parts of Crown land only – not private property, nor municipal property. It assures residents they will still be able to hunt, fish, trap, and play on the land.

It says the only impact would be on new logging, mining and aggregate plans.

That could be problematic for a place such as Highlands East, which has mining claims. Others argue that with the Highlands' growing population, we may need more locally-produced aggregate and timber so this might be an issue.

Municipalities are also cautious about any bans on Crown land that may stand in the way of affordable housing. The Land Trust has so far responded they could look at establishing a reserve in key parts of the corridor, but not all of it.

At a county council meeting, almost a year ago to the day, council passed a revised resolution of support in principle for the corridor. They wanted the Land Trust and Heaven to consult with the County as corridor boundaries are further refined, and Crown lands to be protected as a conservation reserve be identified. The Land Trust appeared before County council again Feb. 12.

All that to say, it's not just people writing letters to politicians, and ranting on Facebook, who have concerns about the Land Trust's plans.

Just as the Land Trust must communicate with the County of Haliburton, it must also do so with the community. The project is nearing time for some town halls meetings, perhaps in Minden, Haliburton and Wilberforce to ensure no one – going forward – is misinformed.

We also encourage people to talk. Rather than ranting on social media, or writing letters to Doug Ford - who is likely not reading them at the moment - perhaps reaching out to the Land Trust might have been a prudent thing for corridor detractors to do.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Food for Canadians

By Peter Ferri

What will we do if produce is limited and prices keep escalating in our grocery stores?

Living in Canada over the past 70 years, and coming from a farm community, I have lived on food grown in Canada. Even in Haliburton, families would look forward to meeting the trains delivering food and goods, such as barrels of apples and other fresh fruits and vegetables that couldn't be grown locally, sent from their southern Ontario families.

Amazingly, we just didn't survive, we thrived. Yes, our cuisine may not have been as diverse as it is today, but it was nutritious and quite often delicious.

I can remember when borders opened up, with pressure and demand for greater goods from neighbouring and far-away countries. Times were tough for our growers.

Because of our shorter growing season, we are limited in what we can produce and the demand for our soft fruit products, for example, was, and is, limited.

I can remember our father on our apple farm west of Brampton, telling people who would come and want to pick Granny Smith apples, "you'll have to fly to France to pick those. We can't grow them here". Because they were such a novelty, people flocked to pick them. Unfortunately, they have a very long growing season, not compatible with ours.

With these changes, our wholesale markets shrank and many farms started to dry up. With global open markets, competition had limiting effects on our growers. Government subsidies and restrictions on imports were important to protect our farmers, but over the years these protections have eroded, as our farm lands have.

Our rich farm lands have become easy targets for development. And with that goes the top soil, which is sold off. Our country has not prioritized farming, which has allowed us to become dependent on other countries to produce our food needs.

Along with this evolution, our taste palette has changed drastically, creating an obsession to continue to demand certain products that aren't available from our soils.

Over the years, it's driven us to the situation we find ourselves in time and time again. Now again, with the border pressures we have from our neighbours, we are feeling the stress. Our obsessions are being played upon.

I'm going to suggest we step back, take a deep breath and suck it in. Canadians are not going to starve if we start to support our local and countrywide growers. Even though we can't grow everything we import, we can produce products that will not only sustain us, but possibly enhance our wellness.

Growing up, our families all stored rooters (potatoes, carrots, beets, etc.) as well as cabbage and onions, throughout the winter. We also preserved and froze delights, which added to our eating pleasures. Remember our heritage. Some of us thrived in this land for thousands of years. Some of us were pioneers to this land with many hardships, even up until 100 years ago.

We were able to grow and sustain and thrive on what this part of the globe offers for life sustaining foods. We certainly have our excellent meat industry (beef, chicken, pork, lamb, etc.) to rely on. With what we grow and produce in Canada, we can create the most amazing meals.

What will we do? Here's a challenge. Let's start writing a collaborative cookbook with some recipes based on what we grow. Send me yours and we will show the world, again, how amazing and resilient we are. Stay strong. Life is good.

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

LETTERS

STR rules will help industry

Dear editor,

It took years for the County and townships to produce any legislation regarding STRs.

While the legislation is not perfect, it goes a long way to ensuring STR operators have guidelines, and we are dealing with environmental and other issues associated with their use.

As for the impact on renters, from my years in real estate, I've learned most residential renters do not care about landlords' problems. They want to get a good deal and have a nice place to stay.

The STR business, like all real estate, is cyclical. There is a period of growth where the early adopters get in, dominate the market, and profits are great. As word gets out, others get into the market to the point of saturation, where there is a lot of the product and competition is fierce. Eventually, it gets to the point of over-saturation where demand falls, prices drop, and the weak operators get out of the market moving onto other opportunities.

In Haliburton, the early adopters got in about 10 years ago and there were probably less than 50 operators in our area. As word got out of easy money by renting your cottage, others started getting into the market and some used STRs to finance their cottage purchase.

Life was good, the market appears to have peaked during COVID when we were locked down and could not leave the province. Since then, the market continued to grow to the point of saturation where there are now hundreds of STRs in our, and surrounding, areas. Renters have a wide choice of properties at lower and lower prices.

I believe STR operators should embrace the legislation. It will help the industry overall by getting rid of poor operators and those who do not really want to be inn keepers.

Peter Willmott
Dorset

STR bylaws welcomed

Dear editor,

We bought our cottage to connect with nature and enjoy peace and quiet from the city.

Three years ago, the property next to us sold and the new owners started operating a STR. Despite good intentions, and using a rental agency, the cottage was often over-capacity for its 1970's-built septic. There were noisy parties until 3 a.m.; dogs running off-leash; and one group trespassed to fish off our dock, despite 'no trespassing' signs. Every weekend, we feared ruined enjoyment of our cottage.

I strongly disagree that 'the majority of the problems are regular cottagers and homeowners.' All our neighbours, who are not renting, respect each others' privacy and property because they have longstanding relationships. Renters come and go, having no sense of loyalty or respect for other people on the lake.

The new bylaw is a godsend. Too many people are ignoring the environmental impact of renting. Rental agencies have no control over who shows up. Renters have no financial commitment; don't care about the lake or whether the septic system can handle the number of people; don't realize or care their loud music is amplified on a lake; and don't care if their dog defecates on the neighbours' property.

Cottage owners who do not rent have rights too - to enjoy the peace and quiet of their property and not have people trespassing.

Further, licensing and inspections are designed to keep cottage rentals, and neighbouring properties, safe. Too many people are installing bunkie structures right next to the lake, to increase capacity and make more money. On our lake, these are businesses. If STR owners cannot afford upkeep of owning a cottage, they should not have one. Our property values are affected, too. After all, who wants to live next door to a STR?

Ann Christie
Haliburton County

The fight for untrumped-up news

Dear editor,

U.S. president Donald Trump is an addiction for many.

Seduced by his lies, suckered by his false promises, his addicts are making us pay a price for their toxic love. You cannot reason with addiction. He is their king and saviour, no matter what.

To keep his addicts, Trump creates a story for the people. He bullies the media to propagate his fantasies. His cronies buy commercial airtime at Super Bowl games to indoctrinate the masses. He thumps his heroic chest while violating the constitution and steamrolling over hundreds of years of legal tradition, tearing apart the justice system and peoples' lives.

And he is coming for us. Will force his vision on us. Because that's what dictators do. Propaganda is powerful. The mis/disinformation machine keeps the addicts adoring and the rest of us in line.

The *International Journal of Press/Politics* published a paper Jan. 13 ('When do parties lie? misinformation and radical – right populism across 26 countries') revealing it is radical right-wing populism spreading misinformation.

An article in the *National Observer*, called "Trudeau's resignation: a right-wing propaganda coup d'etat," demonstrates the success of a coordinated media campaign of misinformation and personal attacks on Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau.

Biased corporate messaging. Five companies (Bell Canada enterprises) own more than half of Canadian commercial radio stations. But CBC radio, the 'voice of the people' (non-biased local and national stories) can't afford to do investigative journalism.

Postmedia owns most of Canada's large daily newspapers, tabloids and small papers. Postmedia benefits financially from organizations such as the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. Postmedia is known for anti-Trudeau opinions and replacing local content with "political and oil propaganda." Corporate interest manipulates the message for personal gain.

We must defend the CBC, not de-fund it. Sign a pledge, and send letters, via charlieangus.ca. Also join Citizens Climate Lobby.

Dr. Nell Thomas
Minden Hills

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Randy Barber captured this quant winter scene on a back road in Fort Irwin.

Thankful to live in Canada

Dear editor,

I am so sick of hearing and reading about Donald Trump.

His antics pertaining to making Canada a 51st state is so unconscionable and utterly irresponsible.

So, for those limited few who think it is a good idea, may I suggest they pack their suitcases and secure a plane ticket to the U.S. at their earliest convenience.

As for the majority of Canadians, fight, stay strong, stand up for our country and be proud of the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy.

Trump is trying to be a dictator like Putin and this greed and power trip he is on will destroy the U.S.

Thank God we live in Canada.

Beverly MacDuff
Gooderham

Care and sensitivity

Dear editor,

We would like to thank Dr. Asia Lemacho of Haliburton Veterinary Services, and the staff, for their compassionate and caring manner on the recent loss of our dog, Penny.

Our canine companion was a member of our family and a loving teacher and friend. She taught us the power of trust and friendship and was always there to help soften life's blows. Her life brought us joy for 13 years and we are thankful for the time, her love, and the memories that will last our lifetime.

We appreciated the care and sensitivity from the Haliburton veterinarian team who helped us through our final hours with our girl Pen.

Judy and Fred Phipps
Haliburton

Dysart ponders Carroll Road dog kennel

By Mike Baker

Recent County transplants Ross and Jane Atkinson are threatening legal action against Dysart et al should council approve an application from a would-be entrepreneur wanting to set up a dog kennel on Carroll Road in Haliburton.

The file was discussed at a recent council meeting, with Monique Popp unveiling plans to establish a doggy daycare and overnight service on her home property. She's seeking approval for up to 25 pets during the day and 12 at night.

Speaking to *The Highlander* this week, Popp believes her business proposal is a win for the Haliburton community.

"People are excited to hear we want to bring a kennel here. We don't have enough of them in our area, unfortunately," Popp said. "Since I moved here in 2020, I have had seven different dogs roam onto my property. The timing is usually early spring, or the end of fall and when I find the owners, they say they had the dog on a leash, or in the cottage and they got out or away while they were opening or closing for the season… I've always thought if there were kennels around, their dogs would be safe and it would eliminate the problem."

Popp told council several neighbours are in favour of the idea. To proceed, she's seeking a zoning exemption to allow her to retrofit an existing outbuilding into a kennel.

An application was deferred Jan. 28, with Dysart planner Kris Orsan saying the township is waiting for a site plan outlining the location of the building, which he said could be a maximum of 74.3 sq. metres. He said staff also need to confirm the intended use.

Popp, who has spent her entire career caring for dogs, including three years as a trainer with Ontario Service Dogs, said there will be options for short-term and long-term boarding, as well as daily daycare. Her proposed hours for daycare are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two designated drop-off times. She's aiming to open the business for the May 24 weekend.

Neighbour worried about barking

The Atkinsons, who purchased their property last year, say establishing a kennel on the "quiet residential road" would have a significant impact on them. Ross said his home is approximately 220 metres away from Popp's.

"Our bedrooms are facing the proposed kennel area – we'd hear barking early every morning that would [likely] continue throughout the day… we wouldn't be able to sit out on our deck at night without [hearing the barking]," Ross said.

"We are not trying to be bad neighbours,

Dog trainer Monique Popp says she's trying to fill a need in the community by setting up a commercial kennel at her Carroll Road home. *Submitted*

but this is going to impact the enjoyment of our property for sure. Unless the applicant comes up with great ways of eliminating the noise, perhaps covering the whole yard, I'm not sure [what could be done]," he added.

Atkinson said he recently completed sound testing at his property, with recordings ranging from 20 to 35 decibels. He claims a dog's bark typically ranges between 80 and 122 decibels, believing dogs will be more stressed when housed at a kennel – away from their owners – and therefore louder.

Popp said she is planning to install a two-metre-high fence surrounding the kennel kitted with noise cancelling buffers. The building will have high-quality insulation and acoustic baffles to mitigate noise. She also intends to fit speakers to play classical music to reduce dogs' stress levels.

She added all dog waste will be handled on-site with a digester that breaks it down without it seeping into the soil, which she claims will also eliminate any smell.

While coun. Pat Casey suggested Dysart seek a professional opinion on how to proceed, Atkinson feels the township's existing bylaws point to a simple path. He claims legislation outlining rules for the keeping and control of dogs prohibits any person who owns, or is in the care or custody of one, shall not allow the animals to excessively howl, bark, or otherwise become a nuisance.

"One thing about noise is it's very easily measured and recorded. We'll have a very good case when we complain… the second step would be civil action," Atkinson said, noting there's legal precedent for noise from dogs constituting nuisance under common law.

He said if they were to sell their property, he estimates losses of between $50,000 and $100,000. "So, we'll spend the time to make the effort to stop this."

A decision is expected in the spring.

Let's fill the County with Snowmen and have fun!

Be Creative - use your own materials, or drop in to our Remax Minden office for some supplies, located on Hwy. 35 beside the Subway Restaurant.

Post a photo of your snowman online, **hashtag #movingthehighlands,** and Like or Follow us on Instagram or Facebook.

A Draw will be held February 28, 2025 at 3pm for a **$100.00 Glecoff's Family Store Gift Certificate.**

Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth Realtor Realtor
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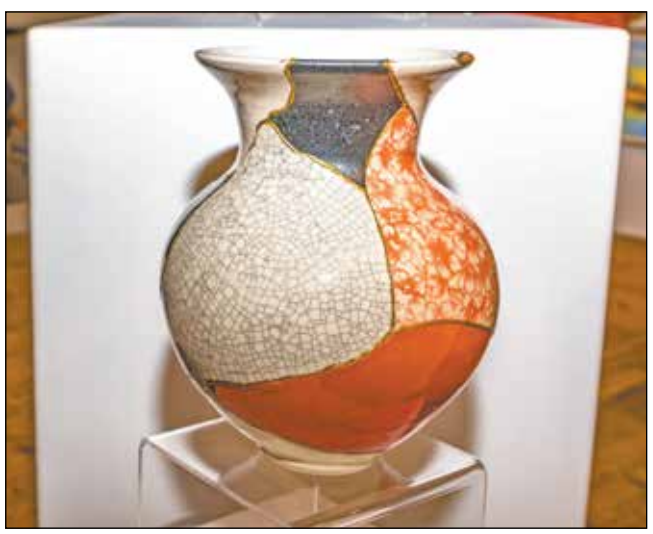
Connecting public with artists

Rails End Gallery in Haliburton held its annual salon exhibition, themed ‘Legacy’ Feb. 8. The art show was filled with Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre members’ works of art from around the County. Dozens came to share in the experience of each other’s art and being able to exhibit their talents to the public, as well as make their pieces available for sale. Laurie Jones, the curator of the show, said “that was a wonderful way to connect the public with the artists.” After a short speech from the board of directors, including long-time member Jackie Wells, guests enjoyed food, wine and, of course, art.



Top: The Legacy sign at the front of the gallery. First row, left: Fay Wilkinson accepts a compliment on her art from a fellow creator, Jennifer Mykolyshyn. Middle: Board of directors’ member Jackie Wells poses beside her painting, ‘In the Clearing – Algonquin Wolves.’ Right: Renee Woltz’s ceramic piece. Middle row, left: Friends Kathy Andrews, left, and Wendi Fox smile beside Fox’s painting, ‘Empty Nester.’ Middle: Painter Barbara Hart poses beside her work of art ‘The Shimmering Light.’. Right: Wilkinson and her textured work of art.
Above left: Greg McHurg stands proudly beside his black and white watercolour. Middle: David Douglas poses beside his watercolour. Right: Grethe Jensen enjoying the afternoon at Rails End. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Eighties music fest to rock Minden Hills

By Lisa Gervais

Johnny Matsiak says he's worked with "almost every Canadian artist there is," and now the Little Gull Lake cottager is planning to bring an 80s themed three-day music festival to Minden Hills in August.

It's been dubbed the Ohana Music Festival by his partner, Leanne Finlay, and slated for Aug. 22-24 at the Minden Fairgrounds.

The plans for what would be an annual musical festival came up at a Jan. 27 Minden Hills council meeting. CAO Cynthia Fletcher told councillors she was "very excited we can have this in our backyard."

She said they'd been approached by Matsiak and Finlay, who are "very" experienced organizers of music festivals. "They live seasonally in this community, and want to do something in this community, and give back to this community. It's very clear that the focus of the festival is twofold: it's family and it's supporting local where possible," Fletcher said.

She added staff and other key stakeholders, such as OPP, were working with Matsiak and Finlay, who are renting the fairgrounds. She added the organizers have had answers to all the logistical questions to date. She said staff would continue working with them and was confident they could tackle any logistics and concerns.

"This is exciting for Minden Hills. The spin-off for our businesses in the community, our service clubs will be involved, high school students will have opportunities to volunteer," Fletcher added.

Matsiak is a lifelong musician, turning professional in his late teens. As a sound engineer, he said he had toured across Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Some of the acts he has worked with include The Spoons, Flock of Seagulls, Suzie McNeil, Glass Tiger, Honeymoon Suite, Tom Cochrane, Corey Hart, and the Magic of Ireland dance group. He's also been a booking agent for theatres.

Finlay, meanwhile, "loves music, especially the 80s" when she was a teenager. Being with Matsiak, she has been involved with a lot of the bands, and selling merchandise.

About four or five years ago, she took on her former aunt's cottage on Little Gull Lake.

Matsiak said the two are adventurous and on drives around the County, they'd noticed the fairgrounds.

"We kept on driving past this field going to the dump. I kept on looking at it, wondering 'what goes on here'?" They researched online and found the Haliburton County Fair, tractor pull and show' n' shine, Canada Day and ice races, but lots of vacancies.

The seed was planted. Matsiak thought with his experience at music festivals, they could pull it off. Then they approached the township. With its support, the wheels are in motion. Matsiak has hired a booking agent and is working his contacts with Canadian bands.

He knows he wants, "primarily 80s acts…," joking, "staying with that genre this year because most of them are still alive." He is contemplating a country artist or two. He said the acts will play full 70-minute sets. While there will not be opening acts, there will be a headliner for the weekend.

Johnny Matsiak doing sound at a concert. *Submitted.*

Matsiak added they are committed to local vendors, including for food, and want to work with service clubs. "We want to keep it as local as possible – we just need to get the word out for that."

He said they would also donate a percentage of net proceeds to local service clubs and charity, with the same percentage going to Ronald McDonald House. They have already launched a website at ohanamusicfestival.ca

He said the other key point is it is "going to be a very green festival, we are not allowing plastic, or Styrofoam. And, we want to invite families."

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For seven long years, Doug Ford has failed on the cost of living, housing, education, healthcare and more. Ford's failures and bad deals have left Ontario's economy weaker, and the families who live here vulnerable. We need to make Ontario stronger and more resilient so we can withstand this crisis and move beyond it.

Marit Stiles, the Ontario NDP, and myself will stand up for families, workers and communities. Vote for change because you and your family deserve a good life. **I will fight for you!**

VOTE

Isn't it time for a change?

Barbara.Doyle@ontariondp.ca

website barbaradoyle.ontariondp.ca

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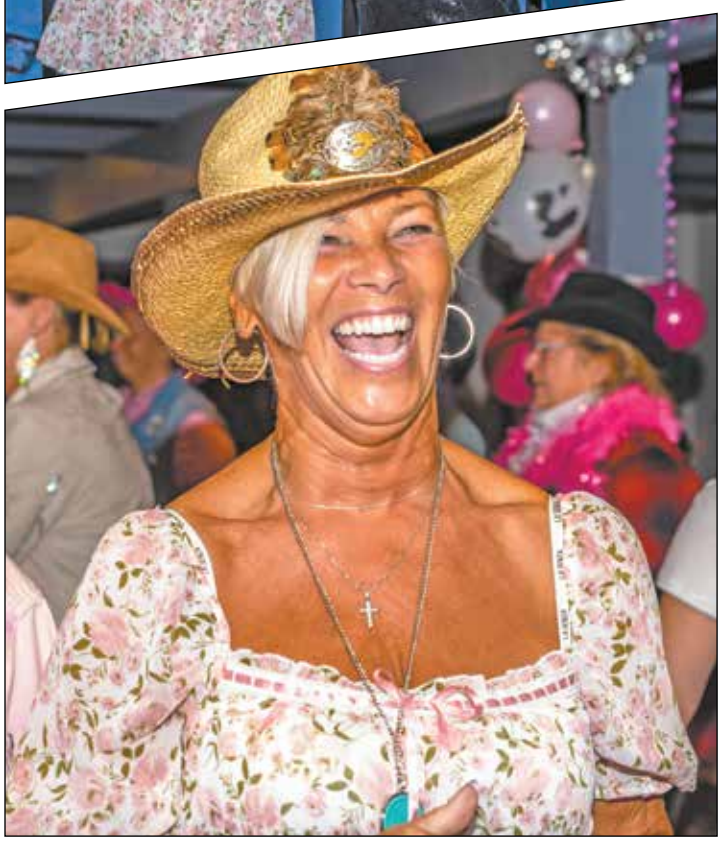
BARBARA DOYLE

Authorized by the CFO for the Barbara Doyle Campaign

Yeeha at the hill

Feb. 7 was ladies' day 2025 at Sir Sam's. From breakfast, to dinner and dancing, women and girls came out to play in full force. It was a jam-packed day with games and prizes, a ski race, line dancing, a lip-syncing contest and a disco cowgirl theme. Before the dinner and dancing, there was a silent auction to raise money for the CADS Program, to help people with physical and developmental disabilities to ski or ride. The ladies were grouped in teams and decorated each of their tables for a contest of whose table was the most imaginative. The night sparkled with sequins and smiles as everyone had a fantastic time dining, dancing and laughing, all while raising money for a great cause.



Top left: Posing on the patio (L-R) Hazel Mascoll, Michelle Pantaleo, Allison Stinson and Kyra Pagnello. Top right: Lori Ralph, super disco star, poses in front of the disco-ball wall. Middle left: Mascoll having a blast. Middle: Tricia Clarkson cruises on her board. Middle right: Ruby Richardson strutting her stuff in her cowgirl get-up. Left: Rachel Watters ripping down to the chair. Above: Teammates Nancy Aspden, Mary Hennessey and Caitlin James. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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ADVERTORIAL

In praise of more

By Simon Payn

When I was a child, I would visit my grandparents. They had a house with a large back yard and in that yard were fruit trees: shiny purple plums, pears like sandpaper, and apples. So many apples.

There were varieties I was told I couldn't eat because they had to be cooked first. Granny filled these giants with gritty brown sugar and baked them so hot they burned me. And there were apples I could eat off the tree: red, crisp and shock-tart, they made me wince and smile at the same time.

On good years, there were so many apples we couldn't keep up so they lay on the grass, bruised brown and rotting. But that was fine, because in the garage were boxes of them. Boxes and boxes.

I remember the excitement at the sheer abundance. So many apples that the tree could waste them.

There were always more.

As a child, having more was a good thing. More chocolate, more crayons, more presents under the tree.

We're programmed to want more, even when we grow up. Especially when we grow up. More money, more house, more status.

Our society is built around the pursuit of more.

The thing is, as we know deep down but prefer to forget, our desire for more often means less of something else. More house means less forest. More stuff for us means less stuff for nature.

Here we are with more of everything while the turtles, eagles and woodchucks are squeezed into corners.

It's hard to believe it wasn't always like that. You've heard of the days when the sky was dark with Passenger Pigeons. Until we killed them all. Even in our lifetimes, there are fewer insects on the windshield. In the last 50 years wildlife abundance has dropped by two thirds.

We've put nature in a pot of water, the heat rising so slowly few notice.

Until one day it's boiled to death.

> "What if us having more meant nature had more too?

What if we could flip the script? What if us having more meant nature had more too?

What if we could delight in the kind of abundance nature so freely gives, just as I did when I was seven?

What if our happiness and status was wrapped up not in more stuff but in more life?

I fell in love with natural gardening because it's based on abundance. Every day I get to plant more nature.

Naturalistic planting, the way I do it at Grounded, uses more plants - we buy them small so they don't break the bank. We pack them in closely, just like nature does. And we structure them in layers: more roots, more stems, more leaves, more flowers. A garden of 100 sq ft will get about 120 plants that quickly form a community that gives pleasure to us and sustenance to nature all year long.

I can't help but think that having more nature would make our own lives bigger. Instead of living abstracted from the world through symbols and numbers, we would live as part of the world, helping the world be more.

Then one day, the sun rises over the misty lake and we walk outside, the birds are flitting between the trees. Flowers blaze as they greet the day and there's a butterfly, gently opening and shutting its wings, a dazzle of orange.

And at that moment, we feel seven again, delighting in the abundance, the sheer more of the world.

Simon Payn is owner of Grounded, which designs and installs natural gardens and shorelines using native plants. Find out more at groundedgardens.ca.

Natural gardens and shorelines designed and installed
using plants native to the area
For more info and a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca
grounded
GARDENING FOR LIFE

Top: Katie Broome steps up to the plate for her chance at a winning hand. Above: Gaelan Schiedel-Webb pumps gas for the ever-growing line for fuel. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Forest poker run raises $20,000

The Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Centre hosted its 33rd annual charity poker run Feb. 8. All of the $80 per participant fees were donated to the Haliburton Firefighters Association – with 650 participants helping to raise $20,000. Riders cruised throughout the extensive trail network to collect five different coloured 'tokens' from various checkpoints, complete with snacks and refreshments. Upon return to home base, the riders traded their tokens for five cards making up their poker hand. The best hand of the day, held by Lacey Rankin, took home a brand-new snowmobile. Many door prizes were donated by local businesses in support of the poker run. The Forest's Tegan Legge thanked all who participated, volunteered and donated prizes, and the Haliburton Forest team.

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Above: Participants submit their best poker hands to volunteers. *Submitted.* Top right: A group of riders prepare to hit the trails again after stopping at a checkpoint. Right: Glen Ford prepares to head out on his Renegade ski-doo. *Photos courtesy of Lee Ross.*

A royal flush of riders

It was a busy weekend for snowmobiling in Haliburton County, with 215 riders participating in this year's Dorset Poker Run Feb. 8. The event, organized by the Tall Pines Snowmobile Club and Dorset Volunteer Firefighters' Association, raised $30,000 – with money supporting the operations at the two organizations, said organizer Cassandra Holtby. Donations were also made to Lions Camp Dorset and Knox United Church. There were five checkpoints this year, all hosted by area businesses – Pizza on Earth, Bacher Construction, Always Roofing, Mountain Trout House and Marina, and Royal LePage. A spaghetti dinner was served at Lions Camp Dorset following the run by volunteers from Knox United Church. The $1,500 grand prize was won by Dylan Larkin. *(Mike Baker).*

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Board Community Member Recruitment for 2025/2026

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care), Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member as a Board Community Member on one of the Board's Standing Committees.

At a minimum, Board Community Member should expect to devote approximately 4-6 hours of time per month, including attendance at committee meetings (about 9 per year) held in-person and/or virtually.

Annual Board Community Member recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds.**

At HHHS, we recognize and respect the contributions that a diverse team can make to our healthcare system. We welcome candidates of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and identities to apply. If you require assistance or accommodations in the process, please contact Michel Henry for prompt support.

How to be Considered
Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Community Member Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca **by March 1, 2025**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at: www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Inquiries can be directed to:
Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: (705) 457-2527

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Raising hope for cancer support centre

'Hope springs eternal' was the theme for an afternoon of poetry and music Feb. 9 at Oakview Coliving. Poet Kate Marshall Flaherty (left), of Toronto, and Ottawa duo Walk on the Wire, Jim Videto and Anne Hurley, entertained about 15 guests in the great room of the former lodge on Little Hawk Lake. The performers generously donated their time, and admission was free with a donation to Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre. The afternoon raised $410. *(Lisa Gervais)*

2ND ANNUAL

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MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

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Airbnb, renters giving back to community

By Mike Baker

Gena Robertson, executive director at SIRCH Community Services in Haliburton, said she'll be using a recent $42,000 donation from Airbnb to expand on the non-profit's popular 'Last Chance' initiative and launch an "exciting" new endeavour.

Representatives from the online rental accommodation agency were in Haliburton Feb. 3 to meet with staff and volunteers at the SIRCH Bistro.

Jacqueline Baptist, who lives in Algonquin Highlands and is a community leader volunteer with Airbnb, said the organization routinely invests in areas with a high number of rentals, with SIRCH seen as the perfect beneficiary given its mandate to support people in need in the County.

"We have about 400 hosts in our community, and we asked them who are the local charitable organizations that could use an infusion of cash – a large number said SIRCH," Baptist said. "I'm a regular customer at the thrift warehouse and know all about the great things SIRCH does for people.

"The money is for SIRCH to use for their operations however they see fit," Baptist added.

Robertson said some of the money will be used to build on the momentum of the 'Last Chance' project, which wrapped last fall. Between May and October, staff at the warehouse accepted wooden furniture that would normally be turned away, with local handyman Kevin Dunlop hired to breath some new life into the units.

The initiative diverted approximately 1,709 cubic feet of furniture from area landfills. Dunlop was able to create 110 pieces of new furniture, which were sold at the warehouse located at 128 Mallard Rd.

"We're looking at a little project that will follow on from 'Last Chance' – same idea,

Volunteers from SIRCH and Airbnb combined to donate 40 warming kits to the non-profit Feb. 3. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

where we give people an opportunity to think about how they can divert from the landfill. It's going to be fun," Robertson said.

She also wants to divert some funds towards transitioning storage containers on the warehouse property into mini storefronts, envisioning area artists setting up shop to sell their locally made arts and crafts and host workshops. Robertson said that's not yet a done deal, noting she's working with the township on a plan.

Baptist said SIRCH was a slam dunk for the money after learning what the money would be supporting.

"Environmental sustainability is one of Airbnb's pillars that they built the community fund around. So SIRCH fulfilled a couple of different themes – the environmental aspect by diverting from the landfill and economic empowerment because of the training initiatives. They checked all the boxes," she said.

Elizabeth Oakley, who helps manage a social media group for renters in the Highlands and Bancroft, joined Baptist last week – donating money and items to assist SIRCH in putting together 40 warming kits for people in the region.

Each unit is kitted with a sleeping bag, fleece blanket, an emergency mylar blanket, hat, socks, hand towel, and toiletries. She put the value at around $1,500.

Robertson noted the kits would be handed out to people most in need in the County and North Hastings, working with 12 distribution partners the organization routinely works with through programs like the Community Kitchen meal delivery initiative.

She said the kitchen in Haliburton prepares over 1,500 meals each month and has produced more than 95,000 since launching in 2020.

Demand peaked through the pandemic, but Robertson said SIRCH continues to support people through that, and the weekly 'Lunch is On Us' initiative, which provides a free meal to community members dining in at the bistro on Wednesdays. Since November, more than 600 diners have benefitted.

For more information on programs, visit sirch.on.ca.

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NOTICE

Special Council Meetings

2025 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

TAKE NOTICE that Council will conduct its 2025 budget deliberations during Special Meetings commencing at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates:

- **Thursday, February 27, 2025**
- **Friday, February 28, 2025**

The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands.

Members of the Public may also observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found on the meeting Agenda at https://algonquinhighlands.civicweb.net/portal/

Dated this 12th day of February, 2025.

Dawn Newhook, Clerk/Deputy CAO
Township of Algonquin Highlands
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Wishing you a healthy 2025!

The Believe in the Magic campaign wraps up what has been an incredible 12 months, and we thank the many donors who generously supported us throughout the year. With the success of the Here for You in the Highlands Campaign, we invested in vital diagnostic imaging equipment for HHHS and we continue to provide subsidies for Meals on Wheels, transportation through Community Support Services and funding for essential equipment needs in the hospital and long-term care facilities in Haliburton County. Your gift makes an impact all year long. We are grateful for your support.

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STARS of the WEEK

PARKER FESSEY

Parker was a scoring threat on every shift. He tallied four goals in the team win.

GAELYN MOONEY-MONSTER

Gaelyn showed determination and hard work with his passing, as well as grit, which earned him an assist.

TRIP MEIER

Trip played a very good defensive game, and battled hard for the team win.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

Wesley Bramham prepares to move the puck. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Storm double up on Brock

The U11 Minden Carquest team beat the Brock Wild White 4-2 Feb. 8.

It was a great game to watch from the players' bench as well as the stands. The team showed hard work and passion in the victory.

The Storm came out a little flat in the first period, but found their rhythm in the second frame. Parker Fessey put us on the board first and went on to score three additional goals. Gaelyn Mooney-Monster had a stellar game by working hard and providing an assist.

Trip Meier played his heart out and executed a great defensive game.

Honourable mention goes to the rest of the team who all worked extremely hard for the big win.

Coach Garwood Thomas, Noah Adlam and Jordan Hunt are extremely proud of how far the team has come. *(Submitted)*

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Parker Fessey was the first star of the game. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

SCORE BOARD

Feb. 3

- U13 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Mariposa 3-1 L

Feb. 4

- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs Mariposa 2-1 L

Feb. 5

- U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Sturgeon 5-2 W
- U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Sturgeon 4-4 T

Feb. 6

- U9 Sharp Electric vs Kawartha L

Feb. 8

- U11 Carquest Minden vs Brock 4-2 W
- U13 Curry Chevrolet vs Mariposa 6-6 T
- U15 The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs Durham 6-3 W
- U13 Casey's Water Well & Geothermal vs Brock 4-3 W

Feb 9

- U9 Sharp Electric vs Sturgeon 6-0 L

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Huskies clip wings of table-topping Hawks

By Mike Baker

After knocking off the number one ranked Jr. A team in the country this week, Haliburton County Huskies co-captain Ty Petrou said confidence is at an all-time high as the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) regular season winds down.

With a playoff spot already confirmed, the Huskies travelled into the belly of the beast Feb. 11 for a top-of-the-table tussle with the Trenton Golden Hawks. The visitors potted an early powerplay goal and never looked back, running away with a 4-2 victory to end Trenton's 12-game unbeaten run.

Heading into the titanic clash, Petrou said the Huskies, missing the likes of Raine Nadeau, Alex Bradshaw and Declan Bowmaster through injury and suspension, were confident of an upset.

"It's just something about playing Trenton, everyone gets up for it that little bit extra. There's a bit of a rivalry there and I think the guys are just more dialed in and ready to go," Petrou said. "We take them really seriously and knew we had to come out and make an impression right away."

It took the team barely two minutes to make good on the promise, with Isaac Larmand scoring on the man advantage at 1:56 for his 14th goal of the season. Defenceman Cameron Hankai assisted, his 33rd apple of the season.

The Golden Hawks rallied, with Devin Mauro finding a way past Stephen Toltl at 9:09 to tie the game. The Huskies maintained their composure, retaking the lead just seconds later after Deandres De Jesus broke away to pot his team-leading 26th tally of the season at 10:30. He was teed up by Chase Lefebvre on the play.

Petrou scored the insurance goal, and eventual game-winner, three-quarters of the way through the second period – again on the powerplay, with Hankai and Nathan Poole assisting.

"We've been struggling a bit on the powerplay – we changed things up, adopted more of a shooting mentality. I saw Hank walking the blueline, saw the opportunity to grab the puck and just ripped it," Petrou said of the play.

Buoyed by a capacity home crowd, Trenton pushed hard in the final frame. They cut the deficit to one at 17:25 and threw everything at Toltl playing six-on-five as they sought to maintain their undefeated streak, but the Huskies stood strong. Petrou made sure of the win at 19:13 with an empty-netter, earning first star honours for his goalscoring exploits.

Huskies co-captain Ty Petrou had two goals, including the game-winner, in a 4-2 win over the Trenton Golden Hawks Feb. 11. *File.*

"It was an intense end to the game – they're a very skilled team, so you just want to try and stay as calm as possible, try not to overdo things too much. But I think we handled the pressure really well and showed we were the better team right down to the final minute," he said.

The 20-year-old centreman thinks the win meant more than just two points to he and his teammates.

"Getting a result like that shows us that we can play with absolutely anybody in this league. We had all four forward lines rolling, all our defence played big minutes – confidence is as high as it could be. We have a great group in the locker room, the coaches spend a lot of time preparing us… I think we're hitting our stride at the perfect time," Petrou said.

Canadiens 6-3 Huskies

Fans inside S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Saturday were treated to an epic offensive display that saw the Huskies fall into a hole early, work their way out, before stumbling down the final stretch in a 6-3 loss to the Toronto Jr. Canadiens.

It was a tough opening half of the game for the home side, with the Huskies finding themselves 3-0 down midway through the second on goals from Ryder McIntyre, Joseph Macchione and Kristian Lamanna.

De Jesus made it a two-goal game at 13:44 of the middle frame. Petrou further reduced the deficit 13 seconds into the third, before Poole tied things at 10:11. With the crowd back on-side, it felt like the Huskies had all the momentum. The Canadiens then won the faceoff at centre ice and scored the go-ahead goal just six seconds later.

That sucked all the air out of the arena, with the visitors scoring again at 10:49 and 17:59 to make sure of the win.

The Huskies are back on the road Feb. 14 against the Burlington Cougars before a four-game homestand closes the curtain on the regular season schedule at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. They host the North York Rangers Feb. 15, Lindsay Muskies Feb. 17, Markham Royals Feb. 22, and Stouffville Spirit Feb. 23.

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Winter wonderland at Dorset Snowball

By Mike Baker

The Dorset Snowball carnival returns for its 33rd year this weekend, with Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen promising an array of fun-filled winter activities.

The event takes over Main Street in Dorset Feb. 14 and 15, with a jam-packed schedule filled with some of the community's favourite yearly traditions and a sprinkling of fresh offerings, the mayor said.

"We're all excited about Snowball," Danielsen told *The Highlander*. "It's a wonderful family day for everyone and this year will be even more special with the rec centre open and all it has to offer."

Launched in 1991, Snowball has long been one of Dorset's marquee celebrations. While this year is the event's 35th anniversary, the two years it was suspended through the COVID-19 pandemic means the milestone won't be officially recognized until 2027.

The event is organized by the township's recreation department and costs $5 to attend, with children two and under free. Staffer Sandra Rogers said the button visitors receive upon arrival gets them a free pass for all activities.

Things kick-off on Friday with a skating and dance party at the Dorset Ice Palace, from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be live music, complimentary hot chocolate and a campfire.

The rec centre is hosting a pancake breakfast on Saturday, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children five and under. As is tradition, town crier Bruce Kruger will lead the ceremonial parade from the Dorset Garage to the rec centre, with a selection of indoor activities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rogers said there's an interactive walkthrough zoo, live music, drum circle, and free face painting. Outside, Emes Family Maple Syrup will be offering samples of maple taffy, with the Great Canadian Lumber Jacks hosting three shows.

At Centennial Lions Park, there will be public skating, zorb balls, inflatable axe throwing, virtual dog sled tours, hockey shootouts, and the cardboard toboggan races. Tapscott-Lopes Park is hosting free kick sledding – a new feature this year, Rogers said.

Festivities conclude in the evening with Hockey Night in Dorset, pitting the Dorset Hounds against Lake of Bays for the annual Dorset Cup. Puck drop is 6 p.m.

"We have lots of interactive activities that people can participate in, lots of new features. There's stuff for every age and it's all covered with the entry fee – the only additional cost will be for food and goods offered by some of our vendors," Rogers said.

Town crier Bruce Kruger will again lead the parade Feb. 15 kicking off the Dorset Snowball. File.

Minden for Family Day

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation is hosting a Family Day open house at the Cultural Centre Feb. 17, from noon to 2 p.m. Admission is by donation, and no pre-registration is required - just drop by and enjoy a variety of activities for all ages.

This year's open house features the Archie Stouffer Elementary School second annual student art exhibition. Visitors will have the opportunity to admire the creativity of local students and celebrate their artistic achievements. The exhibition will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

At Nature's Place, families can get hands-on with nature-themed arts and crafts while exploring the debut of an exciting new exhibit by the Apple Tree Identification Project (ATIP) Haliburton, which showcases local heritage and the rich history of apple cultivation in the area. The Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve Ltd. will present a wolf centre exhibit, offering unique insights into the region's wildlife.

Food and refreshments will be available, generously provided by the Minden Rotary Club. *(Lisa Gervais)*

EVENTS

Arts Council Haliburton Highlands is welcoming submissions of stories for their joint project with CanoeFM: Story Circle. Appropriate-for-broadcast stories of less than 1,500 words will be considered. Submit ideas for review to storycircle22@gmail.com.

Highlands Opera Studio has opened registration for live auditions for 2025 featured productions, with video auditions also available until Feb. 22. Casting is for The Merry Widow (all roles), Orfeo ed Euridice (Amore), independent study, and creative/composer-in-residence. Apply at auditions.highlandsoperastudio.com.

Fees for public skating programs have been removed at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, with admission by donation. Children nine and under are required to wear CSA-approved helmets. Check-in is required before entering the ice pads. Visit mindenhills.ca, or call 705-286-1260 ext. 554 for schedules.

Feb. 14,
Drop by the Dysart, Minden, Wilberforce, or Dorset libraries during regular open hours to create your own adorable love bug! All materials provided. No registration required. Recommended for ages 3+. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca or call 705-457-2241 to find out our opening hours.

Feb. 14 and 15,
Dorset Snowball. Come out for some family fun - Friday there's a family skate party at the Dorset Ice Palace from 6 to 9 p.m., with festivities ongoing throughout the day Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dorset Heritage Museum, and from 6 p.m. on at the Dorset Ice Palace and Dorset Recreation Centre. Come on out to cheer teams on for the Dorset Cup during Hockey Night in Dorset.

Feb. 15, 9 a.m. The Minden Ice races return, as Ontario Ice Racing action is back at the Minden Fairgrounds. Experience adrenaline-packed racing on a frozen track. Spectator admission is free. All day. Sunday start time is 11 a.m. Running every weekend until March 1/2.

Feb. 16,
2 to 3 p.m. Razzamataz Kids' Shows returns with In Circus Incognitus, featuring virtuoso clown Jamie Adkins as the vulnerable everyman. Taking place at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. To learn more, visit razzamataz.ca.

Feb. 17,
noon to 2 p.m. Family Day Open House at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Admission is by donation, no pre-registration required. Featuring the Archie Stouffer Elementary School Student Art Exhibition at Agnes Jamieson Gallery; themed arts and crafts at Nature's Place, information about the Apple Tree Identification Project Haliburton, and a wolf centre exhibit from Haliburton Forest. Food and refreshments provided by the Minden Rotary Club.

Feb. 18,
7 p.m. The Baha'i community of Haliburton is hosting an 'Understanding Addictions: how to give support through challenging times' seminar at the Haliburton Legion, in the Schofield Room. Join for a discussion with community members from Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. No charge, light refreshments provided. There will be music by Rich Anton and Gord Kidd.

Feb. 19,
7:30 p.m. The Lake Kashagawigamog Organization is hosting its latest 'Love Your Lake' seminar, featuring local naturalist Ed Poropat who will talk about the state of birds in Haliburton County. Register online at lko.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo hopefully returning in March.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129… everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. **Monday:** Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 and 24. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions at 2 p.m. Feb. 19 and 26. Cost is $4 per player.

Cornhole at 7 p.m. Feb. 13, 20 and 27. Cost is $5 per player.

Fish n' Chips Fridays Feb. 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.

Valentine's Day Dinner Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. - enjoy some chicken marsala with salad, mashed potatoes, veggies and dessert. Cost is $20 per person.

Seniors 55+ lunch Feb. 14, 28, at noon. Cost is $17 per person.

Wings and jam session Feb. 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Meat draw Feb. 15 and 22 at 3 p.m.

Valentine's Day Dance Feb. 15, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Food is provided.

Ken McFarlane Ice Fishing Derby Feb. 22. Weigh in is at 6 p.m. Registration is $20.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk
General meeting - second Monday at 7:30 p.m.
Euchre - Tuesdays 1 p.m.
Open darts - Tuesdays 7 p.m.
Big buck bid euchre first Wednesday of the month, from 11 a.m., $15 per person.
Meat roll every Saturday at 3 p.m.
Feb. 15, 8 p.m. Yuk Yuks comedy show. Cost is $40 per person. Tickets available at the legion.
For more information contact Legion 705-454-8127

NOTICES

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

File No. PLSRA2024055: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull River lying in front of 33 Laxton Lutterworth Boundary Road, located within Part Lot 28, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than March 14, 2025.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than March 14, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 506 adougherty@mindenhills.ca

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CALL TO ENTER The Tour de Forest Summer Art Tour is looking for a variety of participants in both Studio Artists & Guest Artists. Please download the application from Haliburtontourdeforest.com Deadline is February 16, 2025, for more information contact Laurie at 705-754-0444 or at tdefjurying@gmail.com

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NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Mondays - 7:00 PM at West Guilford Baptist church. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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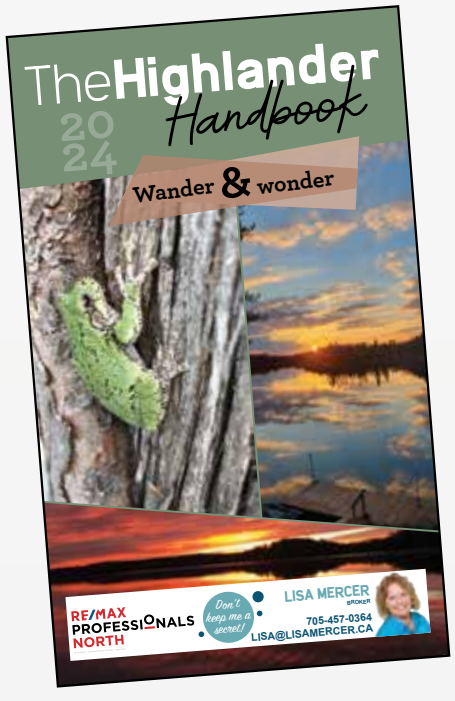

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Gail Elain Chezzie

Passed away peacefully on Friday, February 7, 2025 at the Haliburton Hospital after a short illness.

Sadly missed by her husband of 57 years Robert Chezzie, daughters Leanne (Michael) Chezzie and Christine (Steven) Draaistra, granddaughters and great grandsons.

Private Family arrangements.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) in Gail's name would be appreciated and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Barbara Ellen Trocewicz

Passed away peacefully on Monday, February 3, 2025 at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care in Minden in her 91st year.

Predeceased by her parents Sydney Jordan and Dorothy Southern (nee Hutchinson), husbands Paul Scheller and Henry Trocewicz, brother Walter (Donna) Jordan, and sister-in-law Phyllis (Sidney) Jordan. Barb will be missed by her children Wendy (Jim) Anderson, Martin (Carolyn) Scheller, Peter (Debbie) Trocewicz and Veronica (Geoff) Zinner, granddaughters Natalie (Seth) Anderson and Rachel Anderson, great-granddaughter Cadence McDonough, brother Sidney (Alice) Jordan, sister Marjorie (Ron) Robinson, and many half siblings, nieces, and nephews.

Barb loved her family, her community and her church. Born in Toronto, she was active in the altar guild and choir at St. Crispin's Scarborough for over 20 years, and skilfully designed and embroidered vestments and altar linens for churches in the north. In 1976, the family moved to Carnarvon, where Barb and Henry owned and operated the Old Mill Cottages until 2016. Barb became active in every aspect of St. Paul's Minden and its satellite churches, and through her untiring and unwavering faith and outstanding dedication as Lay Pastoral Assistant, she was honoured with the Order of the Diocese of Toronto in 2016. Barb has left her mark on family and friends with her infectious spirit, her spontaneity and sense of fun, her generosity, her love of singing and her beautiful smile.

The family thanks the doctors, nurses, staff and volunteers at Hyland Crest who have been so kind and caring towards Barb over the past 5-1/2 years, especially during covid.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden in the spring.

Donations may be made to the Minden Community Food Centre and Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In loving memory of

Vernon "Bud" Sudsbury

(Resident of Coboconk)

Peacefully at Ross Memorial Hospital on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at the age of 84. Beloved husband of Mary (DeAdder). Cherished father of Beth (Tom) and Vern (Anna). Proud Papa of Andrew, Dakota, K'Ehlyer, Keir, Avery, Julia, and great-grandson Lucas. Dear brother of Cathy (Lee).

Bud proudly served six years in the military (R.C.R) in Germany. Following his service, he became the first Recycling & Waste Coordinator for York Region, where his leadership was instrumental. After retirement, he and Mary moved to Coboconk in 2000, where they embraced a quieter yet vibrant lifestyle.

A passionate stock car racing enthusiast and dedicated hockey coach, Bud found joy in camping, ATVing, and sharing stories with anyone willing to listen. His warmth and energy touched everyone who knew him.

Celebration Of Life:
Friends are invited to FAITH TABERNACLE 6 Albert Street Coboconk, Ontario on Saturday morning, March 1, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. for a Celebration of Bud's Life. A reception will follow at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #519, Coboconk, Ontario. As an expression of sympathy, donations can be made to The Mikey Network at www.mikeynetwork.com or Faith Tabernacle Church. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 6644 Hwy. #35 Coboconk, Ontario (705) 454-3913.

Community Funeral Home

Watson, Allan Elgin:

Allan Elgin Watson, 82, passed away peacefully on February 3, 2025, at the Haliburton Extendicare after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Allan was born on September 16, 1942, and lived a full life filled with love, laughter, and hard work.
A proud and dedicated employee of Oshawa General Motors for 30 years, Allan's life was also enriched by the cottage he built on Benoir Lake, Harcourt. What began as a getaway quickly became his beloved home.
A sociable and joyful man, Allan was known for his love of the outdoors. He found contentment in making maple syrup, chopping firewood, or tending to his yard. Unlike many, Allan took great pleasure in shopping, and his cheerful spirit and generosity brightened the lives of those around him.
Allan was an active member of the Masonic Lodge in Bancroft, fostering deep friendships and connections in his community.
He is survived by his devoted wife, Donna, whom he married on September 21, 1963. Allan was a loving father to two sons: Gregory (Cindy) and Jeffrey, and cherished his granddaughters Taylor Wilson (Cody) and Nikita. He also leaves behind his siblings: Marion Fisk (Lorne) and Ralph Watson (Sue).
The family wishes to express heartfelt gratitude to the caregivers at Extendicare, whose knowledge, patience, kindness, and professionalism made Allan's final months peaceful. We also deeply appreciate Dr. Bottum for his attentive care and advice during this time.
A private spring burial will be held at South Wilberforce Cemetery, officiated by Daly's Funeral Home. Allan's memory will live on in the hearts of his family and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Rest in peace, Allan. You will be deeply missed.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Alzheimer Society would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. (613) 338-3259 (Condolence messages may be e-mailed to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com).

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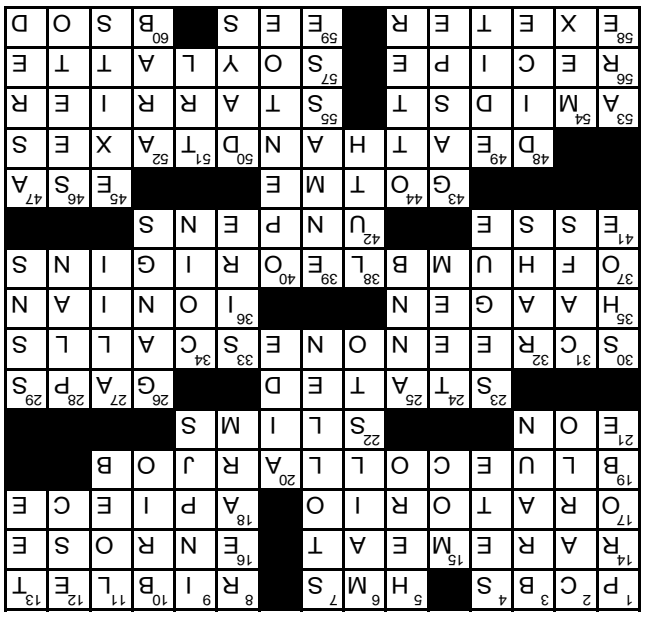
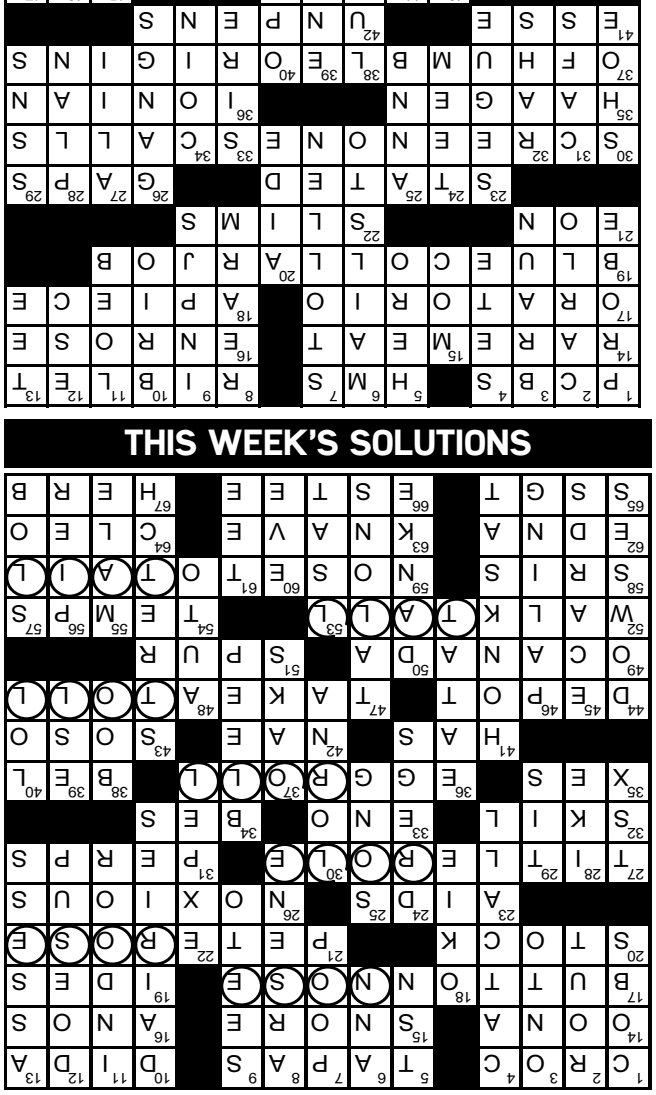
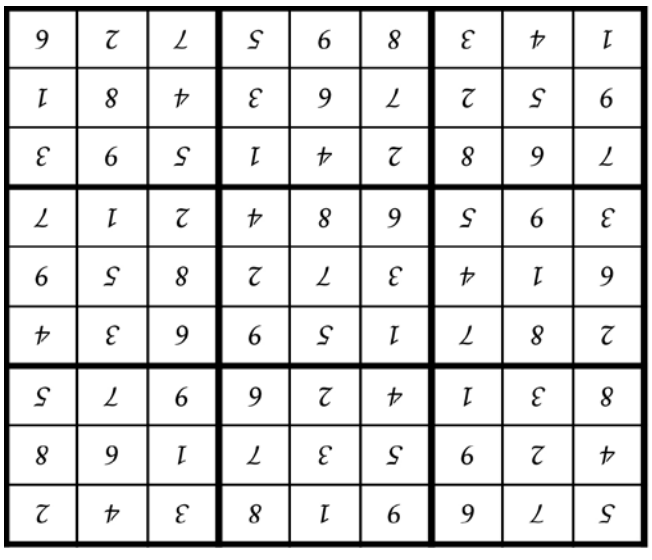


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
Requires a
Payroll/Benefit Administrator

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer the Payroll/Benefit Administrator coordinates and administers the County's payroll, benefit, and pension programs along with onboarding and leave activities.

The successful candidate will hold a college diploma in Business or Payroll Administration or other related field and possess 3 years of related municipal experience. The hourly wage range for this non-union position is $35.09 - $41.05. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than February 26, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The interview evaluation process will include a practical skills component.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

THANK YOU

A HUGE THANK YOU!

The Zahn family would like to say a huge thank you to the whole community for the unwavering support we have received over the past few weeks.

The cards, messages and memories shared have meant so much to our whole family. Seeing and hearing how much of an impact Joe had on others is truly something spectacular.

We also would like to say a huge thank you to all of the health care workers who were a part of Joe's care team. The kindness and level of care was above and beyond. As well as a thank you to all who made a donation to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. They truly are a great cause, and we are forever thankful for them.

MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST — Yours to Explore — highlandseast.ca

The Municipality of Highlands East
Is Currently Seeking a

Part-Time, Economic Development Coordinator
Up to 30 hours/week, varied days of the week
Administration Department

Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement:
$25.94/hour

The Economic Development Coordinator will report to the CAO/Treasurer or designate and will be responsible for providing assistance in overseeing Community Economic Development opportunities in the municipality through promotion of tourist activities to the area, market Highlands East and assist with management and supervision of a Highlands East Tourism/Information Centre.

- Six (6) months Municipal Experience in Community Economics and Development.
- A degree or diploma in Business Administration, Marketing, Tourism, Communication, Environmental Sciences or Public Relations, would be an asset.
- Valid G License (in good standing) and reliable vehicle to use on corporate business.
- Proficiency in computer applications (including but not limited to Word, Excel, Outlook, etc.).
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Good record keeping skills.
- Ability to maintain attention to detail and provide strategic thinking.
- Awareness of community and economic development principles and strategies, programs, and tools.
- General knowledge of organizations, industry associations and government programs related to the economic development industry.

The Economic Development Coordinator is expected to work inside and outside. Typical working hours during the summer months will be 30 hours. Weekend work will be a requirement. During the winter months, weekly hours will be up to 30 hours, varied days of the week. Weekend work may be a requirement.

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications clearly marked "Application –Part-Time, Economic Development Coordinator" may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Friday, February 28th, 2025 via mail, in person, or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer

Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON. K0L 3C0

Fax: 705-448-2532 email: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the Chief Administrative Officer. Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of

Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

A copy of the detailed job description is available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only.

Going Whole Hog

by Barbara Olson
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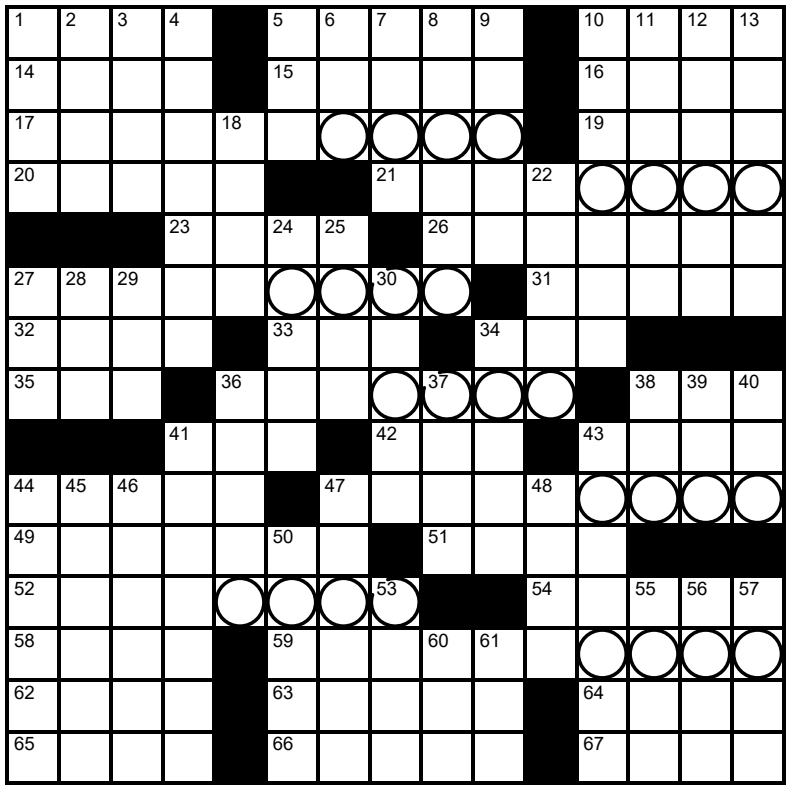

Across

1 Toothy swamp menace, for short
5 Spanish restaurant starters
10 ___ one-eighty (flip-flopped)
14 "Game of Thrones" actress Chaplin
15 Sleep soundly?
16 Yucatán "years"
17 Opposite of a schnozzola
19 Deadly day for Caesar
20 Do an overnight grocery job
21 Baseball great dubbed "Charlie Hustle"
23 Assists
26 Dangerous to breathe
27 Lead acting part
31 Arrestees doing a "walk"
32 Power tool brand
33 Self-described "non-musician" Brian
34 Would-___ (wishful ones)
35 Some ballot marks
36 Deep-fried Chinese side
38 ___ paese (cheese)
41 Is ill with
42 Ben Nevis negative
43 Okay but not great
44 Bus station
47 Leave lasting damage, with "on"
49 Song with lyrics "in all of us command"
51 Cowboy boot jangler
52 Stride with pride
54 Fill-in staff members
58 Hindu titles
59 Waste-free diet, and the progression of the words formed by the circled letters
62 Miss Krabappel of "The Simpsons"
63 Jack's other name, in cards
64 "Pinocchio" goldfish
65 Upper-rank NCO
66 Makeup maker Lauder
67 Saffron or sage

Down

1 Corn roast castaways
2 Decisive defeat
3 Get ___ (learn with practise)
4 Heckler's shout
5 Canadian sports buff's channel
6 Brunette Wilson of Heart
7 Tire (out)
8 Fictional thief-turned-sleuth Lupin
9 Take care of
10 Where to find Jersey girls?
11 Like winter soccer, likely
12 Fastens, as a button
13 Size up
18 "The Grapes of Wrath" migrant
22 Kick out, as from school
24 Bottom-of-the-barrel bits
25 Noted piece of work?
27 Trading place on Bay St.
28 "South Park" adoptee from Canada
29 "Deck the Halls" contraction
30 Blackmore's "___ Doone"
34 Sound of censorship
36 Patronize, as a restaurant
37 Grown-up acorns
38 Word before "hoo" or "ya"
39 New Canadian's course: Abbr.
40 Texter's titter
41 Greets from behind the wheel
43 Prepare for a workout, say
44 Uses a divining rod
45 Animated birthday wishes, perhaps
46 Becoming wan
47 Vulture's grippers
48 Prefix meaning "self"
50 Berliner's "thanks"
53 Aspiring attorney's exam, for short
55 One with X and Y chromosomes
56 "Take a long walk off a short ___!"
57 Ill-mannered frump
60 First lady?
61 Arrange, with "up"

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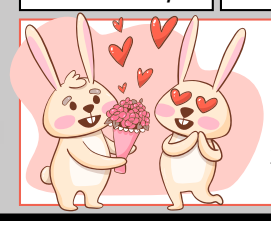

Valentine's Sweetheart's Dinner
with Trina West
February 14
2 seatings: 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Reservations Recommended

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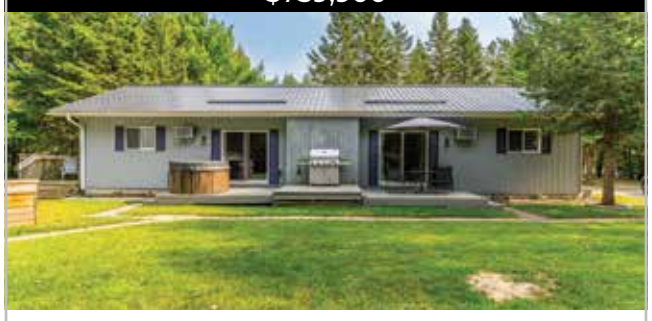

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